

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAGU 03913 222209Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 INRE-00 MCT-02 HA-05 AID-05 CCO-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 SP-02 OC-06 PA-01 USSS-00 CA-01
A-01 OMB-01 SS-15 SY-05 /078 W
-----078286 222220Z /13

O 222150Z AUG 78 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7541
INFO USICA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
USSOUTHCOM QUARRY HTS CANAL ZONE

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E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: PINS, PINT, NU
SUBJECT: FSLN TAKES NATIONAL PALACE

REF: NUDELL/WELTER TELECOM DATED 22 AUGUST 1978

SUMMARY: AN ARMED GROUP OF FSLN HAS TAKEN OVER THE NATIONAL PALACE AND IS HOLDING AN UNDISCLOSED NUMBER OF HOSTAGES. IT IS REPORTED THAT THEY HAVE MADE SEVERAL DEMANDS THROUGH THE ARCH-BISHOP. END SUMMARY.

1. BASED ON SEVERAL REPORTS, SOME UNCONFIRMED, EMB BELIEVES THAT AT APPROXIMATELY 12:30 PM LOCAL TIME, A GROUP ESTIMATED AT FROM 12-28 ARMED FSLN OCCUPIED THE NATIONAL PALACE. CONGRESS WAS IN SESSION AT THE TIME. A FIRE FIGHT LASTED FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE AND ONE-HALF HOURS, AFTER WHICH, THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FSLN DEMANDED THAT THE NATIONAL GUARD (GN) WITHDRAW TO A DISTANCE OF 200 YARDS AND THAT THE ARCHBISHOP AND TWO OTHER BISHOPS (NO NAMES AVAILABLE) BE BROUGHT TO THE SCENE.

2. THE GN COMPLIED WITH THESE DEMANDS AND BY 2:30 LOCAL TIME, THE ARCHBISHOP WAS AT THE SCENE. THE FSLN REPORTEDLY

THEN MADE THE FOLLOWING DEMANDS: A) 10 MILLION DOLLARS;
B) AMNESTY AND THE RELEASE OF ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS;
C) WITHDRAWAL OF THE GN FROM THE IMMEDIATE AREA;
D) PLANE TO TAKE THEM AND POLITICAL PRISONERS TO CUBA.
(NOTE: EMB HAS NOT AS YET RECEIVED CONFIRMATION
OF DEMANDS. END NOTE). THE ARCHBISHOP IS REPORTEDLY
INSIDE THE NATIONAL PALACE NEGOTIATING WITH THE FSLN.

3. EMB UNDERSTANDS THAT 40-45 DEPUTIES AND GON OFFICIALS
ARE BING HELD HOSTAGE. EMB HAS CONFIRMATION THAT
LUIS PALLAIS, PLN SPOKESMAN, DIRECTOR OF NOVEDADES AND
COUSIN TO SOMOZA; AND MINGOV MORA ARE AMONG HOSTAGES.
UNCONFIRMED REPORTS ALSO INCLUDE MINFINANCE GENIE AND
PCN LEADER RENE SANDINO AMONG HOSTAGES.

4. ONE GN OFFICER AND ONE CIVILIAN HAVE BEEN REPORTED KILLED.,
AND ONE GN SERGEANT WOUNDED. IT IS NOT YET KNOWN
IF THERE WERE OTHER CASUALTIES NOR IF ANY FSLN ARE
INJURED.

5. WHILE THE ABOVE WAS OCCURRING, ALL RADIO STATIONS WHICH
NORMALLY WOULD PROVIDE COVERAGE OF SUCH AN EVENT
TERMINATED NEWS BROADCASTS OR LEFT THE AIR ENTIRELY--
PERHAPS AS THE RESULT OF A TEMPORARY POWER OUTAGE TO WHICH
EMB WAS ALSO SUBJECT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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